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*The commonwealth of Pennsylvania.* By Thomas Kilby Smith, of the Philadelphia bar. (New York: Encyclopedia press, 1917. 318 p. \$1.00)

The purpose of this little volume is thus set forth in the preface: "The object of the series of hand books of which this is the pioneer is to give in compact form the salient facts relating to the history, development, and present social, economic, and political status of the different States of the Union."

The author first presents in a twelve page chapter a general survey of the physical features, counties, and population. Then follow three chapters on the history of Pennsylvania from its first settlement to 1915. These chapters are poorly proportioned as follows: "History prior to the revolution," 34 pages; "The revolutionary period," 14 pages; "History from the admission to the union," 24 pages. This very brief survey of the history under the constitution is partly atoned for by the fact that much material on different phases of the history is presented under other headings in following chapters. The author then treats successively the following subjects: government; military affairs; manners and customs; state finance; resources; religion, giving sketches and statistics of the various denominations; conditions affecting women and children; education and the professions; literature, art, and science; social systems; care of criminals. Bibliographical references conclude each chapter, and an index concludes the volume. It thus appears that this volume is concerned more with other matters than with ordinary history, though this makes it none the less useful. It is an inventory or compendium of the state in action and is full of interesting and valuable information. Several good illustrations and two maps appear.

The work needs careful revision as it contains many errors. For instance, on pages 9 and 10 it would appear from the data given that it was the percentage of the native element, not foreign, which had decreased in the period mentioned. Again, near the foot of page 10, there is obviously something wrong with the statement that, "In the United States in 1908, the urban population amounted to 46.3% and in 1910 to 40.5%." Again, on page 11, the data given calls for 11.4% instead of 13.3%. In the next paragraph, the percentages of natives born in other states should total 9.4 instead of 4.8, if the previous statement is correct. All these errors occurring within two pages are apt to shake one's confidence in the text. Again, in writing of William Penn, page 22, the dates there given, 1644 and 1688, should be 1664 and 1668 respectively. On page 29, the date November 22, 1757, should be November 24, 1758, for the fall of Fort Duquesne. Two dates are given for the founding of the

university of Pennsylvania (pp. 52 and 225). Thomas Jefferson, who was then in France, could hardly be called a "leading spirit in the framing of the Constitution of the United States" (p. 56). The Johnstown flood entailed the loss of some 2,200 lives, not 3,000 (p. 80). In naming "places of special religious interest" (p. 202), more explanation of those mentioned and the inclusion of some others might be desired. Allegheny college is a Methodist school, not Presbyterian, and Juniata is Dunker or Brethren, not Baptist (p. 227).

H. J. WEBSTER

*Chronicles of Pennsylvania.* From the English revolution to the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, 1688-1748. By Charles P. Keith. In two volumes. (Philadelphia: Charles P. Keith, 1917. 456 p.; 525 p. \$5.00)

In the words of the preface, "A comprehensive chronicle of the most neglected period is attempted to be supplied in these volumes, detailing what took place in each year, but sometimes pursuing a topic beyond the year in question." It is the purpose of the chronicler to bridge the gap from a few years after the coming of Penn to just before the outbreak of the seven years war, thus presenting much material which is omitted by most of the historians. All available sources seem to have been used in this work, though references to them are embodied in the narrative of the text with no separate bibliography or footnotes. The twenty-seven chapters cover a wide range of historical material — political, legal, biographical, racial, religious, educational, financial, and military. If anything is omitted it is probably because the chronicler found no body of material upon it for this comparatively quiet period of sixty years, for which the important sources are not inexhaustible.

A good insight is given into the history of the Penn family and its relations to the colony. Penn is characterized as "more of a statesman than a saint, a better preacher than a business man, a rather weak ruler, but, considering the people he had to deal with, including kings, Quakers, and Indians, and his general success . . . the greatest of the long line of Pennsylvania politicians." (p. 164). The relations with the Indians are duly considered as is also the coming of the sects and their early history. The politics centered about the proprietors, governors, and assemblies. The governors were mediocre men usually without higher education and were in a difficult position between the kings and proprietors on the one hand and the assemblies representing the people on the other. The Quakers were firm and fearless in opposition, and there were frequent contests between assemblies and governors.

The accounts of the different sects and of religious dissensions are good. In the split in the Society of Friends due to the preaching of George Keith, the latter is upheld by the author in his demand for a